

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 21, 2008, has been carefully considered.

Objection has been raised to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing an air outlet and a liquid outlet in the same chamber, as claimed. Claims 5 and 9 have now been amended to recite that the liquid outlet is disposed in the lower portion of the filter container separate from the air outlet, as shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. New claims 13 and 14 recite that the liquid outlet is in the inlet chamber, as in Figs. 3 and 4.

Claims 5 and 9 have further been amended to recite that the filter material comprising at least one wall or cylinder of fibrous material runs between upper and lower ends of the filter container, as shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4. Air passes transversely through the filter material, as disclosed, for example, in paragraph [0002] and paragraph [0011] of the specification as published.

Claims 5-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Shureb in view of Hendrichsen et al and Pearce et al.

Shureb discloses in Figure 6 a crankcase ventilation system with an air inlet and a number of baffles, the filter separating the air inlet from the air outlet. Shureb does not disclose, however, a filter material extending from the upper portion to the lower portion of the filter case, with air passing transversely through the filter.

Hendrichsen et al and Pearce et al have been cited to show filter materials which are thermally bonded, and it is alleged that it would have been obvious therefore to use thermally bonded fibers. However, Hendrichsen et al and Pearce et al do not disclose filter materials for use in a crankcase filter nor do they disclose or suggest the structural arrangement of the claimed invention.

In the operation of the claimed filter, the pressure in the inlet chamber is high, with the pressure at the air outlet much lower, such that the air is forced through the filter material. While droplets and particulates do get caught in the filter they are not absorbed in the filter material and the heavy oil droplets and particulates will fall downward and be removed through the liquid outlet. This operation is advantageous in that it cleans the particulates from the filter, which are collected in the oil and are removed through the outlet. It is a particular advantage that the filter material of the invention extends down through the lower end of the filter chamber, thus assisting oil in being removed from the chamber.

It is further noted that a traditional filter material for use in such filters would be made of textile, paper or a similar material, as opposed to a fiber mat, and would absorb the oil and the particulates from the air when air is passing through the filter. This would hamper removal of the oil and particles from the container, whereas the filter material of the claimed invention does not absorb the oil or particles, and permits them to be removed.

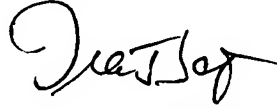
While Shureb does disclose that the filter provides further opportunity for remaining oil particles to condense or hit the filter and drop back onto the floor surface, the apparatus of Shureb does not provide the advantages of the claimed invention in which the filter extends to the lower end of the filter chamber.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

LAW OFFICES
DENNISON, SCHULTZ & MACDONALD
SUITE 105
1727 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-2700
703 837-9600

Respectfully submitted,



Ira J. Schultz
Registration No. 28666
Attorney for Applicant
(703)837-9600, ext. 23